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For action

Recommendation for funding for a short-duration country programme and for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme**

Burundi

Summary

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from general resources and supplementary funds for the country programme of Burundi with a duration of one year to support activities that will lead to the preparation of a full-length country programme. It also contains a recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme for which the balance of approved general resources is not sufficient to fund the programme up to the approved programme period. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve:

(a) The amount of $2,266,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $4,400,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the year 2000;

(b) Additional general resources in the amount of $102,724 to achieve the objectives of the country programme as originally approved by the Board.

* E/ICEF/1999/15.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1998. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1999 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1999/P/L.16).

99-18518 (E) 210799

Basic data

(1997 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, under 18 years)	3.4
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	176
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	106
Underweight (% moderate and severe) (1994)	37
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1996)	800
Literacy (% male/female) (1990)	48/28
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1996/97)	32/27
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	..
Access to safe water (%) (1992)	52
Routine EPI vaccines financed by Government (%)	0
GNP per capita (US$)	180
One-year-olds fully immunized against:	
tuberculosis	70 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus	60 per cent
measles	52 per cent
poliomyelitis	60 per cent
Pregnant women immunized against tetanus	27 per cent

The situation of children and women

1. It is estimated that 200,000 people have lost their lives since the most recent period of political violence began in 1993. Currently, over 500,000 persons are displaced internally and living in over 250 camps, and more than 280,000 have taken refuge in other countries. Burundian society has been unable to maintain a basic commitment to human rights in general or to children's and women's rights in particular. The central issue facing the future of Burundi is the creation and continuity of a peaceful social order. This will require the development of a culture of rights and a society dedicated to the right to survival for all.

2. The Government of Burundi has made a serious effort to negotiate with opposition groups, which has resulted in significant steps towards reconciliation and a broadening of participation in the political arena. Opportunities exist to work with the Government and Burundian society to address the structural problems that have plagued the country, to expand the culture of rights and to reinforce the ethical commitments of society to the protection of the rights of children and women.

3. Burundi's gross national product per capita, estimated at $160, ranks among the lowest in the world. Real gross domestic product has experienced a cumulative loss of about 20 per cent since 1993. In 1990, 35 per cent of rural and 32 per cent of urban populations lived in poverty. By 1997, poverty rates had nearly doubled.

4. Burundi's children have suffered disproportionately from the crisis. Currently, there are more than 20,500 children orphaned by war, and the number of AIDS orphans is expected to reach 90,000 by the year 2000. Burundi's child and infant mortality rates are among the world's highest. The major childhood diseases - malaria, upper respiratory infections and dysentery - often go untreated due to the destruction of approximately one third of the rural health centres, a lack of essential drugs, the absence of qualified personnel at the remaining health centres and an inability to pay for care, even if accessible.

5. Burundian women have some of the worst health indicators in Africa. Their life expectancy has fallen from 54 years in 1992 to 51 in 1997. In urban areas, at least 21 per cent of the women between 25 and 34 years old are infected with HIV, as are more than 3 per cent of the children under five years old.

6. Surveys conducted in 1998 in five provinces indicated that malnutrition rates (moderate and severe wasting) among children 6–59 months old varied between 13 and 23 per cent, with severe malnutrition ranging from 2 to 9 per cent. Pre-crisis (1987) levels were estimated at 5.6 per cent for moderate and severe wasting and 1 per cent for severe malnutrition for children aged 6–36 months.

7. Since 1993, 28 per cent of educational institutions have closed their doors. The quality of education has also been seriously affected by a deficit of over 3,000 teachers for primary and secondary grades and 2,500 teachers practising without formal teaching qualifications. Despite the Government's commitment to universal access to education, 110,000 children in 1997/98 were unable to attend school due to the lack of school materials.

Programme cooperation, 1998–1999

8. The 1998–1999 country programme aimed to fulfil children's rights through the provision of basic services. Through advocacy and training, the programme also sought to reinforce the capacity of civil society, communities and families to promote children's rights and extend protection to vulnerable groups. The achievements highlighted below represent those implemented during the first half of the current programme of cooperation.

9. The health and nutrition programme coordinated the activities of international humanitarian organizations active in the nutrition sector. Protocols for both supplementary and therapeutic feeding activities, as well as methodologies for nutrition surveys, were standardized. Data from nutritional surveys and nutritional feeding centres were analysed, published and used to improve the allocation of resources and target the most vulnerable beneficiaries. To support therapeutic feeding activities, the programme purchased and distributed therapeutic milk, multi-vitamin/mineral supplements and oral rehydration salts. Nutritional centres were supported through signed agreements with 13 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A Memorandum of Understanding signed with the World Food Programme paved the way for an allocation of 5,150 metric tons of food to NGO-operated supplementary feeding programmes. To support vaccination activities, the programme provided fuel to distribute vaccines and conduct mobile vaccination activities, kerosene and equipment for the cold chain, and over 4.5 million doses of vaccines. National Immunization Days (NIDs) against polio achieved a coverage rate of 91 per cent. Sufficient quantities of drugs were purchased and distributed to treat 257,000 cases of the most common diseases. UNICEF also coordinated activities for the promotion of breastfeeding and the training of traditional birth attendants (TBAs).

10. Through the education programme, UNICEF worked with the Government to increase the gross enrolment rate from 52 per cent (1997/98) to 60 per cent (1998/99). The programme financed the repair of 80 classrooms and the construction of 165 temporary schools. School materials were provided to 36,000 children from poor families to cover needs for three months for 1,500 public schools. In addition, 272 teachers from the non-formal education section and 30 education advisers from the formal education sector were trained on how to integrate peace education into their current activities.

11. The water and environmental sanitation programme provided potable water to 115,000 persons through the repair of wells, gravity-fed water distribution systems and spring protection. Water was also transported by truck to camps for displaced persons as well as to health and nutrition centres. To reinforce local capacity, the programme supported the training of local community repair technicians. Two national surveys to assess the degree of access to water and sanitation facilities at over 1,450 public schools and in 260 camps for internally displaced persons were designed and implemented.

12. The protection project initiated efforts to bring Burundian law into conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, created five provincial-level committees charged with monitoring and promoting children's rights, and conducted a survey of children in prison. The children in distress project assisted over 35,000 children in especially difficult circumstances by providing emergency aid packages. Over 450 unaccompanied children were reunited with their biological parents or with foster parents, and a project that provided approximately 1,000 street children with shelter and access to medical care and education was supported. The AIDS project supported both national programmes and local initiatives to disseminate information on the modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. It also provided technical assistance and funding to the National Programme for the Fight against AIDS.

Lessons learned

13. When the heightened commitment of provincial and local authorities was combined with effective community participation, schools and other facilities were rapidly constructed. Advocacy conducted at the middle to lower levels of Government has proven to be a very effective means to reach immediate programme objectives. This approach will be used to tackle other problems, most notably the need for a heavy investment of non-skilled labour for the construction of rural water systems, and to accelerate the transmission and use of appropriate messages during social mobilization campaigns on AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

14. UNICEF leadership in the areas of nutrition and water and sanitation served as an effective platform for standardizing approaches and improving programme effectiveness. Parallel with these actions, a series of surveys in the nutrition, water and sanitation, and education sectors, which were conducted in close collaboration with the Government and the international NGO community, were instrumental in creating a detailed picture of the plight of children and women. These data were used effectively by all actors to plan interventions based on vulnerability and disparities between geographical areas and to advocate for additional resources. NGOs and local community organizations can be effective partners for service delivery and capacity-building. In insecure areas, international NGOs were the partners of choice given the shortage of local organizations with the capacity to work under insecure conditions.

15. NIDs provided more than just opportunities to vaccinate children against polio. They opened communication channels for reaching relatively isolated rural communities with other programme messages and provided a very visible platform from which the protection of children's rights could be aired.

Recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme, 1998–1999

16. The programme of cooperation between the Government of Burundi and UNICEF for the period 1998-1999 was approved by the Executive Board in 1997 in the amount of $2,640,000 from general resources (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.19). Due to the implementation of the modified system for allocation of general resources for programmes (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1, decision 1997/18), the 1999 general resources level for Burundi was increased. Consequently, additional funds in the amount of $102,724 are proposed to be approved to cover the increase.

Annual funding requirements
(In United States dollars)

Current programme cycle	*Approved general resources funding*	*Additional funding proposed for 1999*
1998–1999	2 640 000	102 724

Recommended programme cooperation, 2000

Estimated annual expenditure
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Total
General resources	
Basic education and children in need of special protection	694
Health and nutrition	352
Communication, AIDS and promotion of children's and women's rights	352
Water and environmental sanitation	282
Monitoring and evaluation	247
Cross-sectoral costs	339
Subtotal	**2 266**
Supplementary funding	
Basic education and children in need of special protection	1 395
Health and nutrition	1 415
Communication, AIDS and promotion of children's and women's rights	750
Water and environmental sanitation	685
Monitoring and evaluation	155
Subtotal	**4 400**
Total	**6 666**

Programme preparation process

17. The recommended one-year programme is the product of active discussions with the Government, NGOs and United Nations partner agencies. UNICEF programme priorities and strategies were finalized based on: (a) the preparation of a situation analysis of current and projected needs and possible strategies for effective intervention; (b) sectoral-level meetings with governmental, NGO and United Nations partners to ensure coordination of activities and to discuss UNICEF-prepared sectoral strategy papers and lessons learned from past programming; and (c) discussions with concerned ministries to finalize UNICEF objectives and programme strategies. The Government and UNICEF have agreed to implement a one-year programme. UNICEF will harmonize its programme cycle with those of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.

Objectives and strategies

18. Despite the violence which continues to characterize some parts of Burundi, the country is at a crossroads where opportunities exist to foster the creation of a society respectful of human rights. During this period, an emphasis on relief and community capacity-building will continue as part of a rights-based approach. This may reduce the risk of the country falling back into another cycle of violence and help to pave the way for a better future. In this context, the global objectives of the country programme are to: (a) help foster a rights-based perspective in the context of the "triple A" (assessment/analysis/action) process, which occurs at the level of local communities and national institutions; (b) strengthen the capacity of social services, which are intimately linked to the fulfilment of the rights of children and women; and (c) ensure the protection of the rights of children and women during emergencies.

19. The principal strategies for this one-year country programme are to: (a) work towards the fulfilment, promotion and protection of children's rights through communication and social mobilization activities at all levels, including formal and non-formal channels, with an emphasis on activities rooted in traditional Burundian culture; (b) improve service delivery to ensure the fulfilment of the right to education and good health; (c) reinforce local capacities to utilize the triple A approach to be able to conceptualize and manage problems; and (d) coordinate actions with other international humanitarian agencies, donors and other partners.

20. The provision of emergency life-sustaining services continues to be an integral part of the country programme. The programme maintains stocks of basic relief supplies in Bujumbura and pre-positioned in two outposted offices. Contingency plans are maintained, and programming strategies are revised to respond effectively to outbreaks of violence and population displacement.

Basic education and children in need of special protection

21. The objectives of this programme are to: (a) advance the acceptance of the right of children to education; (b) involve children, adolescents, teachers and local communities in peace education activities; and (c) involve children in national efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. The programme aims to achieve a gross school enrolment rate of 70 per cent by the 2000/2001 school year. Main activities will focus on: (a) the repair and equipping of 200 classrooms; (b) the purchase and distribution of school supplies to 25,000 students from poor families and the provision of emergency school kits for 5,000 children displaced by violence; (c) the training of 2,500 teachers and 800 headmasters in techniques in participatory teaching; (d) the review of curricula and printing of school manuals for formal and non-formal educational systems; (e) the initiation of a pilot, post-literacy project targeting mainly women; (f) the collection of education statistics by the Government; and (g) the implementation of social mobilization campaigns on universal access to education, with an emphasis on girls' education.

22. The primary objective of the peace education programme is to integrate this concept as a component of activities of both the formal and non-formal education sectors. Main activities will include the production and distribution of new educational materials and the organization of additional teacher-training workshops.

23. The restoration of the rights of orphans, and unaccompanied and street children, will be promoted by reinforcing the capacity of all partners to accelerate activities which target these children. Child tracing and reunification activities will continue.

Health and nutrition

24. Burundi's primary health care (PHC) system in general, and selected projects dedicated to vaccine-preventable diseases, nutritional disorders and maternal health in particular, will be supported to improve the quality of their service delivery. Major activities will consist of: (a) the provision of essential drugs, vaccines, cold-chain equipment, safe delivery kits and specialized nutritional feeding supplies; (b) the retraining of government health care workers in PHC; (c) reinforcement of the community-based, growth monitoring and nutritional surveillance system; (d) the training and supervision of TBAs; (e) promotion of the use of mosquito nets to combat malaria; and (f) coordination of the nutrition, essential drugs and maternal health sub-sectors.

Communication, AIDS and promotion of children's and women's rights

25. The promotion of children's and women's rights will continue to be emphasized. Government partners and local community groups will be supported in their efforts to improve their capacity to monitor and coordinate actions and to ensure conformity between national legislation and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

26. The promotion of children's and women's rights will emphasize activities to protect the population from HIV/AIDS. The programme will support social communication, education and mobilization activities, with a focus on reaching girls. Activities will be conducted by health and community agents, individuals who are HIV sero-positive and NGO partners.

Water and environmental sanitation

27. Access to clean water and sanitation will be increased through the use of appropriate technologies and by reinforcing the capacity of the Ministry of Community Development to coordinate, evaluate and implement water and sanitation projects in rural areas. The main activities include: (a) repairing 10 existing gravity-fed water distribution systems; (b) protecting 50 natural springs to provide drinking water and the training of community members to maintain the structures; (c) constructing or repairing 18 wide-diameter wells equipped with hand-pumps; (d) retraining 40 community water technicians and/or members of community water boards; (e) repairing 50 latrines at schools and health centres; (f) reinforcing the capacity of the Ministry to conduct surveys and coordinate the sector; (g) providing access, on an emergency basis, to clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene supplies.

Monitoring and evaluation

28. The main objectives of programme monitoring and evaluation in this one-year programme will be to ensure timely and correct assessment of the needs of women and children and to evaluate the relevance, scope and impact of UNICEF activities. Indicators for the end-decade goals will be updated.

Coordination with other partners

29. UNICEF continues to work to strengthen the United Nations coordination system in Burundi and is working with other United Nations agencies to refine the Common Country Assessment. UNICEF Burundi will participate in the formulation of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In every sector of intervention, UNICEF works closely with the NGO community to conduct assessments, deliver services and improve infrastructure. In 1998, UNICEF signed a total of 36 separate agreements, worth a total value of $697,000, with both international and local NGOs.

Programme management

30. External oversight of the country programme of cooperation will be assured by the Burundian Ministry for External Affairs and Cooperation. Programme reviews will be conducted biannually. The country office management team will meet regularly to monitor both programme and management performance through the use of over 40 indicators.

31. To help ensure adequate funding, the country team provides regular activity briefings to donor representatives in Burundi and actively solicits funds from National Committees and other donor Governments in Europe and elsewhere.

TABLE

COUNTRY : BURUNDI
PROGRAME : 2000-2000

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
HEALTH AND NUTRITION	352,000			352,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	27,380	27,380
BASIC EDUCATION	694,000			694,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	27,380	27,380
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION	282,000			282,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	28,691	28,691
COMMUNICATION, AIDS AND PROMOTION	352,000			352,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	45,996	45,996
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	247,000			247,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	119,310	13,112	132,422
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS	339,000			339,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	43,757	43,757
TOTAL GR	2,266,000			2,266,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	12	18	119,310	186,316	305,626
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
HEALTH AND NUTRITION		0	1,415,000	1,415,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	4	152,565	39,749	192,314
BASIC EDUCATION		0	1,395,000	1,395,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	152,565	26,027	178,592
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION		0	685,000	685,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	152,565	8,722	161,287
COMMUNICATION, AIDS AND PROMOTION		0	750,000	750,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	152,565	0	152,565
MONITORING AND EVALUATION		0	155,000	155,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	8	101,864	47,764	149,628
TOTAL SF		0	4,400,000	4,400,000	0	0	0	4	0	1	5	3	10	18	712,124	122,262	834,386
TOTAL GR & SF	2,266,000	0	4,400,000	6,666,000	0	0	0	4	1	1	6	8	22	36	831,434	308,578	1,140,012
SUPPORT BUDGET		Operating costs		288,800													
		Staffing			0	0	1	1	1	1	4	2	8	14	539,389	116,319	655,708
GRAND TOTAL (GR + SF + SB)					0	0	1	5	2	2	10	10	30	50	1,370,823	424,897	1,795,720
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											10	7	29	46			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											10	10	30	50	1,370,823	424,897	1,795,720

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
SB = support budget.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Excludes temporary assistance and overtime.

DP/CCF/BDI/99/1/Add.1